

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1        1.        A keystore method comprising the steps of:  
2                retrieving one or more certificates from a local database;  
3                determining if said any of said one or more certificates preexists in a preselected  
4                portion of a distributed database; and  
5                storing nonpreexisting certificates of said one or more certificates in said  
6                preselected portion of said distributed database.
- 1        2.        The method of claim 1 wherein said preselected portion of said distributed  
2                database comprises said distributed database.
- 1        3.        The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining if said one or  
2                more certificates is invalid.
- 1        4.        The method of claim 3 wherein said step of storing nonpreexisting ones of said  
2                one or more certificates is bypassed for invalid certificates.
- 1        5.        The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of requesting a new certificate  
2                corresponding to an invalid certificate.

1        6.        The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of updating said distributed  
2        database in response to an update event.

1        7.        The method of claim 6 wherein said step of updating said distributed database  
2        comprises the steps of:

3                requesting one or more new certificates; and  
4                adding said new certificates to said distributed database.

1        8.        The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
2                determining if a current certificate supercedes a preexisting certificate; and  
3                replacing said preexisting certificate with said current certificate if said current  
4        certificate supercedes said preexisting certificate.

1        9.        The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
2                accessing said distributed keystore; and  
3                requesting a selected certificate from said distributed keystore.

1        10.       The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of searching a local keystore  
2        for said selected certificate in response to a failure of said step of requesting said selected  
3        certificate.

1        11.    The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of repeating, for a second local  
2        database, the steps of:

3                retrieving one or more certificates;

4                determining if said any of said one or more certificates preexists in a preselected  
5        portion of a distributed database; and

6                storing nonpreexisting certificates of said one or more certificates in said  
7        preselected portion of said distributed database.

1        12.    The method of claim 8 wherein said distributed database comprises a logical  
2        keystore.

1 13. A computer program product embodied in a tangible storage medium, the  
2 program product for managing a keystore, the program product including a program of  
3 instructions for performing the steps of:

4 retrieving one or more certificates from a first local database;  
5 determining if said any of said one or more certificates preexists in a preselected  
6 portion of a distributed database; and  
7 storing nonpreexisting certificates of said one or more certificates in said  
8 preselected portion of said distributed database.

1 14. The program product of claim 13 wherein said preselected portion of said  
2 distributed database comprises said distributed database.

1 15. The program product of claim 13 wherein said program of instructions further  
2 comprises programming for performing the step of determining if said one or more  
3 certificates is invalid.

1 16. The program product of claim 15 wherein said step of storing nonpreexisting  
2 ones of said one or more certificates is bypassed for invalid certificates.

1 17. The program product of claim 15 wherein said program of instructions further  
2 comprises programming for performing the step of requesting a new certificate  
3 corresponding to an invalid certificate.

1 18. The program product of claim 13 wherein said program of instructions further  
2 comprises programming for performing the step of updating said distributed database in  
3 response to an update event.

1 19. The program product of claim 18 wherein said step of updating said distributed  
2 database comprises the steps of:

3 requesting one or more new certificates; and  
4 adding said new certificates to said distributed database.

1 20. The program product of claim 13 wherein said program of instructions further  
2 comprises programming for performing the steps of:

3 determining if a current certificate supercedes a preexisting certificate; and  
4 replacing said preexisting certificate with said current certificate if said current  
5 certificate supercedes said preexisting certificate.

1 21. The program product of claim 13 wherein said program of instructions further  
2 comprises programming for performing the steps of:

3 accessing said distributed database; and  
4 requesting a selected certificate from said distributed database.

1        22.    The program product of claim 21 wherein said program of instructions further  
2        comprises programming for performing the step of searching a local keystore for said  
3        selected certificate in response to a failure of said step of requesting said selected  
4        certificate.

1        23.    The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said program of instructions  
2        further comprises instructions for the step of repeating, for a second local database, the  
3        steps of:

4                retrieving one or more certificates;  
5                determining if said any of said one or more certificates preexists in a preselected  
6        portion of a distributed database; and  
7                storing nonpreexisting certificates of said one or more certificates in said  
8        preselected portion of said distributed database.

1        24.    The computer program product of claim 20 wherein said distributed database  
2        comprises a logical keystore.

1       25.    A data processing system comprising:  
2            circuitry operable for retrieving one or more certificates from a first local  
3       database;  
4            circuitry operable for determining if said any of said one or more certificates  
5       preexists in a preselected portion of a distributed database; and  
6            circuitry operable for storing nonpreexisting certificates of said one or more  
7       certificates in said preselected portion of said distributed database.

1       26.    The system of claim 25 wherein said preselected portion of said distributed  
2       database comprises said distributed database.

1       27.    The system of claim 25 further comprising circuitry operable for determining if  
2       said one or more certificates is invalid.

1       28.    The system of claim 27 wherein said circuitry operable for determining if said one  
2       or more certificates is expired includes circuitry operable for bypassing, for invalid  
3       certificates, said circuitry operable for storing nonpreexisting certificates.

1       29.    The system of claim 27 further comprising circuitry operable for requesting a new  
2       certificate corresponding to an invalid certificate.

1 30. The system of claim 25 further comprising circuitry operable for updating said  
2 distributed database in response to an update event.

1 31. The system of claim 30 wherein said circuitry operable for updating said  
2 distributed database comprises:

3 circuitry operable for requesting one or more new certificates; and

4 circuitry operable for adding said new certificates to said distributed database.

1 32. The system of claim 25 further comprising:

2 circuitry operable for determining if a current certificate supercedes a preexisting  
3 certificate; and

4 circuitry operable for replacing said preexisting certificate with said current  
5 certificate if said current certificate supercedes said preexisting certificate.

1 33. The system of claim 25 further comprising:

2 circuitry operable for accessing said distributed database; and

3 circuitry operable for requesting a selected certificate from said distributed  
4 database.

1 34. The system of claim 33 further comprising circuitry operable for searching a local  
2 keystore for said selected certificate in response to a failure of said step of requesting said  
3 selected certificate.



1        35.     The system of claim 25 further comprising circuitry operable for repeating, for  
2        a second local database, the steps of:  
3                retrieving one or more certificates;  
4                determining if said any of said one or more certificates preexists in a preselected  
5        portion of a distributed database; and  
6                storing nonpreexisting certificates of said one or more certificates in said  
7        preselected portion of said distributed database.

1        36.     The system of claim 32 wherein said distributed database comprises a logical  
2        keystore.